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EST. 1817

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**Continental European
School, late 19th century**

A Vanitas bust

Plaster

12 3/16 in. (31cm.) high



Provenance

Private collection, Brussels, Belgium, circa 1960 - 2018, from whom purchased by the following,
With Saint Honoré Art Consulting, Paris, 2018.

Vanitas has been a theme present since medieval funerary art. By the 15th Century it could be extremely morbid and explicit, reflecting an increased obsession with death and decay also seen in the *Ars moriendi*, the *Danse Macabre*, and the overlapping motif of the *Memento mori*. Paintings and sculpture, such as this bust, executed in the vanitas style, were meant to remind viewers of the transience of life, the futility of pleasure, and the certainty of death.